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Thespians, with Rubber Stilletos, Would Train for Real War, Says Actor

The martial spirit of preparedness has invaded the ranks of the theatrical profession. The Hamlets in their doublets and hose, who stride before the footlights with swords a-dangling, the villains who stab their victims with rubber stilletos, and the men of the chorus who carry tin-pointed spears, all wish to be trained as real soldiers. At least this appears to be the inference to be drawn from a letter which Secretary of War Baker has received from Hal Pierston.

Dainty Dames Capture Wrigling Salamanders as a Sunday Pastime

Horrid worms and fearsome mice may startle some women, but the popular notion that they inspire squeals in all women was shattered yesterday when a few of the fair sex, braving the terrors of a scientific expedition, considered capturing salamanders, frogs and crawling creatures as mere Sunday pastime. If ejaculations were forthcoming, they were not inspired by panic, but by "what a beauty!"—this in reference to a crawling "cray-fish" whose long-armed claws wiggled. The squirming salamander and slippery frog were ensnared by dainty fingers and examined with the cold eye of science. Turtles, snapping and other-

burlesque house. His letter to the Secretary of War follows: "My dear Mr. Secretary: "With the American people apparently alert to the necessity of real preparedness and every patriot anxious to do his part, it has occurred to me and other members of the theatrical profession that the army of actors and performers at liberty during the summer months could contribute materially to the national defense movement if a military training camp could be established for their benefit. There are thousands of patriotic performers who would gladly enter into the spirit of such an undertaking."

The women were in a party of scientists who are members of the Aquarium Society of Washington. Under the leadership of Dr. Paul Bartsch, curator of mollusks at the National Museum; Dr. W. C. Ewart, Bureau of Chemistry; Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, Army Medical Corps, and J. Henry Wagner, the party took its research expedition through the woods above Cabin John Bridge. The trip inaugurated a program of excursions to be taken on the first Sunday of each month. About a score were out yesterday.

SOLDIERS' HOME BAND GIVES FINAL CONCERT

Orchestra Will Resume Tri-Weekly Programs in Open-Air Next Sunday.

The Soldiers' Home String Orchestra gave its final concert of the season last night in the auditorium of the home under the leadership of John S. M. Zimmerman, nine selections, including a vocal solo, composing the program. The concert shown by the band's leader was noteworthy. The program from beginning to end was excellent, and although the band begins its tri-weekly concerts on April 17, the evening will not soon be forgotten.

KILLED BY GAS FROM DEFECTIVE TUBING

Aged Watchman Found Dead in Room by Policeman Who Broke Down Door.

Anthony J. Apple, 72, a watchman at the Terminal Company, was killed by illuminating gas in his room, over 64 Seventh street northwest, Saturday night. The death was discovered yesterday by R. G. Blackey, who also roomed there. A certificate of accidental death was given by Coroner Nevitt. Apple generally returned from his work at midnight. About 9 o'clock yesterday Blackey noticed the odor of gas. He summoned Policeman G. H. Grant, of the First precinct, who broke down the door to the old man's room. Gas had leaked from a defective tube. Apple came to Washington about two years ago from Carriage, Tenn. He lived alone. Police are searching for relatives.

YALE MEN TO HOLD SMOKER.

George P. Day, Treasurer of University, to Be Principal Speaker. The Yale Alumni Association of Washington will hold a smoker this evening at 8:30 o'clock at the University Club. George P. Day, treasurer of Yale University, will deliver the principal address. Mr. Day's subject will be "Preparedness and the Part Being Played in National Defense by the Yale Battery." He will be one of the speakers at the national convention of the Navy League in Washington this week. Dr. Henry S. Graves is president of the local Eli graduates' organization.

PERSHING CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE

More Men Needed in Mexico or Forces There Must Use Railways.

VILLA FAR IN ADVANCE

Carranza Bulletin Makes Veiled Assertion He Is Ready to Deal with Bandit Alone.

In view of the serious situation arising from Villa's continued flight, and the gradual lengthening of the army's line of communication, Gen. Pershing has asked Gen. Funston for further instructions, army officers heard yesterday. The facts as told in unofficial advice are that Gen. Pershing's force has been reduced by the necessity of maintaining a guard over a 400-mile line of communications, and his movements have been so hampered by inability to use the Mexican railroads that he is in a quandary. Gen. Pershing is understood to have asked that more troops be sent to reinforce his columns, or that he should be given permission to use the railroads to facilitate the pursuit of Villa.

Villa, in the opinion of army officers, is so far in the interior, and his forces have so increased, that it cannot be said the hands have been dispersed. On the contrary, there is evidence that he is moving forward to a junction with Gen. Reyes, with the ultimate intention of joining Zapata. It was indicated by one of the high officers last night that there is official news from the border that Gen. Pershing has learned there is a force of 600 Villistas about sixty miles ahead of him. This force is the vanguard of Villa's army, so that the chieftain has a large force between this own army and the pursuing Americans. A significant statement given out by the Mexican Embassy last night was interpreted as an indication that Carranza is preparing to assert his ability to deal with Villa. This bulletin said: "Ellaes Arredondo, ambassador-designate of the de facto government of Mexico, is today in receipt of a telegram from Mexico City advising him that official notice has been given by his government that no further contracts will be made with foreign firms for arms and ammunition in view of the fact that the recently established national works are now capable of supplying the entire demand of the government."

HOUSE DEMOCRATS TO DEVISE "GAG" RULES

Majority Leaders Find All Efforts to Speed Up Administration Legislative Program Useless.

Majority leaders of the House of Representatives, whose plans for speeding up legislation have been frustrated by the opposition of the minority, have come to the conclusion that legislation by "gag rule" must be undertaken if the mass of legislation proposed by the administration is to be passed without a reasonable time. The Rules Committee will meet tomorrow to devise a system by which special rules will be brought in to put through bills which will lead to extended debate. An effort will be made to secure an amendment to the minority as each measure is presented. If this cannot be obtained the parliamentary spurs will be applied, and a lively fight against "gag rules" may follow. The House still must pass twelve appropriations bills, among them such important measures as the naval appropriation bill, the largest fortifications bill ever reported, the agricultural, diplomatic and consular, and sundry civil bills.

U. S. AGAIN TO SEEK RELEASE OF IMPORTS

New York Importers Ask State Department's Aid in Negotiations with Britain.

Importers of New York have appealed to the State Department to take an official trade ambassador to London to negotiate with the officials of the foreign office for the release of American-owned merchandise valued at approximately \$100,000,000 which is now detained at Rotterdam and in the hands of the Germans and Austria. R. C. Mitchell, who represents more than 100 importers, announced last night that he has been assured by Counselor Polk, of the State Department, that a representative probably would be sent to London in the near future to present to the foreign office matters in which the importers are interested. Additional time will be asked for by the importers in which to present applications for the release of merchandise purchased prior to March 1, 1915. A determined effort will be made to obtain a concession for the safe transit of merchandise contracted for between March 1, 1915, and March 15, 1915, the date of the promulgation of the embargo. It is understood that Dr. Charles A. Holder, the foreign trade adviser, who has been representing the State Department in the unofficial negotiations at the British Embassy, will be selected by Secretary Lansing to conduct the unofficial negotiations with the British foreign office.

TO GIVE CONCERT FOR BLIND.

The following concert program is to be presented for the blind at the Library of Congress tomorrow evening at 8:15 o'clock in Pavilion 7: "Love Song" (Fingier) violin obligato; "A Song of the Woods" (Drazen) piano (Reger); "Nora" (Pigott), Miss Emma Cohen; "Mazurka" (Mlynarski), "Air for G String" (Bach), "The Bee" (Schubert), Samuel Wardell; "Die Nachtigall" (Ala-hart), "To a Messenger" (La Forge), "A May Morning" (Denzel), "Sing, Smile, Slumber" (Gounod) (violin obligato), Miss Cohen.

Pays Bill Due 53 Years Ago.

Fairmont, W. Va., April 9.—Payment of a bill due Jerry Hutchinson, who has been dead fifty-three years, has been received here from a man in Morgan, Hutchinson, son of the late Jerry Hutchinson, who conducted a general store. Mrs. E. W. Arnett and C. F. Hutchinson are also surviving children. The letter follows: "Dear Sir:—I owe the bill of the late Jerry Hutchinson \$1.50. Please send Clyde and your sister their share, 50 cents each." Early in the present year an order for \$15.00 pounds of copper was placed with American Iron Works on behalf of the allied nations in Europe.

Three Chers! Saved! What? 31 Letters; Bord Is Hapy

New York, April 9.—The Simplified Spelling Board, the gentlemen who abhor diphthongs and save letters more carefully than a miser hoards his gold, met at Columbia University last week. Nearly thirty members of the board and its Advisory Council were present and nobody else was admitted; he mite have smuggled in some vowels and consonants. However, a program was published to inform the outside world of what went on at the meeting. A carping critic read on reading the program: "These simplified spellers are not consistent. Why do they not begin at home and simplify the spelling of their own names? Here on the program is Mr. H. H. Paine, who should knock his 't' out. Why does Mr. Gans Dunn need two 'n's' tagged to his name? Why has not De-

SOCIETY WOMEN TO BE STUDENTS

National Service School Classes Being Filled by Social Leaders.

MISS POE COMMANDANT NO MEDICAL ATTENTION

Mesdames Dewey, Scott and Barnett Made Honorary Officers—Mrs. Lansing Heads Reception Committee.

Mrs. George Dewey, Mrs. Hugh L. Scott and Mrs. George Barnett have been elected honorary commandants of the National Service School to be held in May at Chevy Chase. Miss Elizabeth Elliott, Post, general secretary of the Woman's Section of the Navy League, was elected commandant in charge. The 200 resident students for the first course of fifteen days, beginning May 1, has been completed. There is still room in the first course for day students, and the committee requests that all women desiring to enroll in the day classes and all who wish to enroll in the second course for resident students register at the headquarters, 741 Munsey Building, at once.

Partial List of Students.

Among the resident students in the first course are Mrs. James M. Thompson, Francis Williams, Mrs. Mary Logan Tucker, the Misses Katharine and Elizabeth Scriven, Miss Jane Bigelow, Miss Catharine Burdette, Miss Estelle Delano, Miss Elizabeth Pickering Dodge, Miss Elizabeth Deane, Miss Anne Hopkins, Miss Elizabeth Deane, Miss Denys, Miss Katharine Kline, Miss Frances Effinger, Mrs. Alice Gitterman, Miss Lillian Hendrick, the Misses Lena and Kathryn Hitchcock, Miss Helen Hopkin, Miss Louise F. King, Miss Ethel L. Leupp, Miss Emma Lippincott, the Misses Francis and Ruth Littell, Mrs. Russell M. MacLennan, Miss Frances McIver, Miss Frances Moore, Miss Eleanor Morgan, Miss Nancy Mills, Miss Lettie May, Miss Laura Gruber, Miss Carolyn O'Grady, Miss Helen Parker, Miss Juliet Rubie, Miss Pauline Stone, Miss Georgia Schofield, Miss Anne Tracy, Miss Elizabeth Wiley, Miss Emily G. Waterman and Miss Helen O. Walling. The day students for the first course include Mrs. Gibson Fahnestock, Mrs. Willard H. Brownson, Miss Julia Brice, Mrs. Denny Brereton, Mrs. H. R. Bigelow, Mrs. Sidney Ballou, Miss Lydia H. Lejeune, Mrs. Russell Langdon, Mrs. Robert H. Campbell, Miss Leslie Cameron, Mrs. John Dwight, Miss Virginia Livingston Hunt, Miss Ursula Harrison, Mrs. Charles L. Hussey, Miss Elizabeth Jewett, Mrs. L. W. Little, Miss Elsie M. Lejeune, Mrs. Russell Langdon, Mrs. Mary P. Morgan, Mrs. Luther W. Mott, Mrs. Frank G. Odenheimer, president, general U. C. C., Mrs. James H. Oliver, Mrs. John Callan O'Loughlin, Mrs. Alexander Sharp, Jr., Mrs. Spencer Wood, and Miss Julia Whittle.

Classes Will Open at 9:30.

A special reception committee, to be headed by Mrs. Robert Lansing, wife of the Secretary of State, composed of wives of Cabinet members and army and navy officers and officers of the Woman's Section of the Navy League, will welcome the guests at the first exercises on May 1, to which President and Mrs. Wilson, Vice President and Mrs. Marshall, Speaker and Mrs. Clark, Cabinet officers and their families and other distinguished persons will be invited. After the opening exercises, the routine of the school will begin. The classes for both resident and day pupils will begin at 9:30 and last until 12:30 o'clock. After a dinner period, the classes will resume at 1:30 and run until 3:30, when lectures will be given daily in the assembly hall. The subjects for the first week are "National Defense," "Good Citizenship," "Food Conservation," "American History" and "The Americanization of the Foreign Born." These lectures will be open to the general public and will last until 6 o'clock.

EVIL LIVES AFTER HIM; SENDS TWO TO COURT

Donley Killed Ducks, Others Are Fined for Finding Fowl He Brought Down.

Babylon, N. Y., April 9.—Although William Donley is dead, the evil that he did lives after him. When Donley went on the duck-shooting expedition that resulted in his arrest and subsequent insanity, in which he shot up the town and killed himself, he succeeded in wounding two ducks that flew beyond his reach and were lost. Elijah Raynor found one of the ducks and picked it up. James Kelly found another one and appropriated it. This morning the two men were served with summonses and taken before Justice Lounds, at Huntington, many miles away. Raynor was fined \$5 and Kelly \$15. As neither man had the money, it was necessary to appeal to Supervisor Joseph Sheldie, of Babylon. He guaranteed payment and the men were released.

Cigarettes Destroy Mind.

Detroit, April 9.—One hundred cigarettes a day were too much for Frank Winters, aged 46. He was declared to have been mentally affected by excessive cigarette smoking in a certificate filed in the Probate Court by Dr. M. A. Layton.

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SUFFRAGE CRUSADERS TAVENNER HAS BILL TO PENSION EMPLOYEES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE. Presents Measure Providing for Retirement of Civil Service Clerks at 65.

Admitting annuities or allowances payable to a pensioner or his dependents to a maximum of \$600 a year, Representative Clyde H. Tavenner, of Illinois, has presented a civil service retirement bill which was prepared in conjunction with the Joint Civil Service Retirement Committee, and is supported by a large number of civil service employees.

As drawn, the bill provides that employees who have served the government for a period of not less than fifteen years may retire at the age of 65 years on an annuity ranging, according to length of service, from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of their average annual salary from the government for the ten years preceding the date of retirement.

At 60 years of age, after fifteen years of service, an employee may request retirement; or, at this age, irrespective of service, an employee may be retired by the head of a department, if the good of the service demands it. Unless fifteen years of service has been rendered, however, no pension will be paid.

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